(e) DPE's guidelines issued in March 1996, *inter-alia* clarify that ex-gratia/honorarium would not be paid over and above entitlement under the provision of Bonus Act or the Executive instructions issued by the DPE in respect of *ex-gratia* unless the amount is authorised under the duly approved incentive scheme.

(f) Does not arise.

**Countervailing duties on subsidised agro-imports**

2026. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is seriously thinking of imposing countervailing duties on subsidised agro-imports from US and EU; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) India has so far not applied countervailing duty on agro-imports from any Member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), including the US and the EU, for the purpose of offsetting subsidy on such imported products. Government will take action to apply countervailing duty on subsidized imported products in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement on Agriculture and the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures of the WTO either based on receipt of a duly substantiated petition from the domestic industry seeking,initiation of an investigation leading to such action or based on sufficient evidence of existence of a subsidy, injury and causal link to justify initiation of an investigation.

**Infrastructure for intellectual property framework**

2027. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the measures being taken by Government to strengthen the infrastructure for a better Intellectual Property framework in the country; and

(b) whether any expert group has been formed for the above purpose?